

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 2119

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP (FRASER, DONALD M.)

SUBJECT: CODEL FRASER

1. DURING CHARGE'S DINNER FOR CODEL FRASER MARCH 30
KIM TONG-KIL, KIM OK-KIL, CHONG IL-YONG AND YI TAE-YONG
CALL TERMED CONTINUED US TROOP PRESENCE AND MILITARY
ASSISTANCE AS NECESSARY TO WITHSTAND THREAT FROM NORTH
AND TO CONTRIBUTE TO DEVELOPMENT OF DEMOCRACY IN KOREA.

2. FORMER EMERGENCY MEASURES PRISONER KIM TONG-KIL
MADE PARTICULARLY LENGTHY AND ELOQUENT PLEA FOR CONTINUED
US COMMITMENT. SAYING THAT DEMOCRACY WOULD BE SLOW IN
COMING TO ROK, HE NEVERTHELESS OPTIMISTIC THAT IT WOULD
BE EVENTUALLY ACHIEVED. IN MEANTIME, US TROOPS AND
MILITARY ASSISTANCE WERE VITAL IN PREVENTING TAKE-
OVER BY NORTH AND IN ENCOURAGING ROKG TO HASTEN
DEMOCRATIZATION PROCESS. IN SPITE OF RESTRICTIONS
ON FREEDOM IN ROK, KIM SAID THAT IT WAS
FAR FREER THAN NORTH KOREA. IN COMMENTING ON HIS
IMPRISONMENT, KIM NOTED THAT HE HAD BEEN ABLE TO
CONDUCT SEMINARS WITH STUDENTS WHILE IN JAIL.

3. BOTH KIM AND CHONG-IL-YONG TOLD CODEL THAT
USG SHOULD CONSTANTLY MAKE CLEAR TO PAK GOVERNMENT US
POSITION ON HUMAN RIGHTS. CHONG SAID US SHOULD
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PAGE 02 SEOUL 02119 310933Z

"SPANK" PAK, BUT WAS NOT ABLE TO ANSWER CODEL'S

QUESTION AS TO WHAT SPECIFIC STEPS USG SHOULD TAKE.
ALL GUESTS MADE IT CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT REDUCTION
OR THREAT OF REDUCTION IN US MILITARY ASSISTANCE OR
PRESENCE WAS NOT PROPER MEANS OF PUTTING PRESSURE ON
ROK. MRS. YI TAE-YONG (CHONG'S WIFE AND PROMINENT
OPPOSITION LAWYER) TOLD CODEL THAT US MIGHT THREATEN
CUT ECONOMIC AID TO KOREA TO GAIN LEVERAGE WITH PAK
GOVERNMENT. CODEL LATER COMMENTED TO EMBOFFS THAT YI CLEARLY
UNAWARE OF MINIMUM LEVELS OF SUCH AID AT PRESENT.

4. COMMENT: CODEL MADE NO COMMENT TO EMBOFFS PRESENT
AS TO WHAT IMPACT, IF ANY, THE REMARKS OF THE GUESTS
HAD MADE ON HIM. IT MAY BE OF SOME SIGNIFICANCE THAT
AFTER THE GUESTS' DEPARTURE, CODEL FOCUSED CHIEFLY
ON KIM TONG-KIL'S BRIEF COMMENTS THAT KCIA AGENTS
HAD TRIED TO TALK HIM OUT OF MEETING WITH CODEL.
ALTHOUGH KIM WAS CLEARLY MAKING LIGHT OF KCIA
EFFORTS AND ALTHOUGH THEY OBVIOUSLY HAD NO SUCCESS,
CODEL APPEARED TO REGARD THEM AS ONE OF MAJOR POINTS
BROUGHT OUT DURING EVENING.
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